involving common question of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration, and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts and Labour courts. The Government has extended the term of existing 1562 Fast Track Courts for another five years *i.e.* upto 31.3.2010 for clearing huge pendency of cases at District level.

High Court Bench in Thiruvananthapuram

823. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have intimated the State Government of Kerala to provide infrastructure facilities for setting up of High Court Bench in Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Kerala have expressed their willingness to provide the same;

(c) whether any steps are pending with Government to set up the High Court Bench as assured and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the stage at which are setting up of High Court Bench stands at present and the formalities which are required and to be completed on the part of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) Setting up of a Bench of a High Court is considered on receipt of a complete proposal from the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned. However, no such complete proposal in this regard has been received.

increase in strength of judges in Supreme Court

824. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the strength of judges of Supreme Court;